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EXCALIBUR™

GUEST-STARRING
THE X-MEN?



ROSS/MILGROM

THE POWERFUL CAPTAIN BRITAIN, THE SHAPE-CHANGING MEGGAN, THE INTANGIBLE SHADOWCAT, THE SWASHBUCKLING NIGHTCRAWLER, THE MYSTERIOUS PHOENIX, THE FEAR-EXPLODING LAMB WIDGET AND LOCKHEED THE DRAGON FORGED IN THE FIRES OF THE IRON AGE PASTS, THEY HAVE BANNED TOGETHER TO FIGHT A MODERN DAY OR SAGE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL. STAY TUNED PRESENTS.

EXCALIBUR

NO MAN IS AN ISLAND

(BUT NO ISLAND IS A MAN EITHER SO IT WORKS OUT)

HOW EMBARRASSING.

EVERY OTHER X-MUTANT GETS TO DIE IN BATTLE--
SAVING THE UNIVERSE FROM ONE COSMIC EVIL OR ANOTHER.

EVERYONE EXCEPT ME.

KURT WAGNER--
THE OBTAINING NIGHTCRAWLER--
DIES ON VACATION!

SCOTT
LOBDELL
WORDS

DAVE
ROSS
PENCILS

ALLEN
MILGROM
INKS

KEN
LOPEZ
LETTERS

BRAD
YANCATA
COLORS

TERRY
KAVANASH
SOMETHING
IMPORTANT

TOM
DEFALCO
WE'VE ALWAYS
WONDERED

EXCALIBUR CREATED BY CHRIS CLAREMONT AND ALAN DAVIS

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HHMM... NO
RADIO.

NO NAVIGATIONAL
SYSTEM.

NO PLACE TO LAND IN
THE MIDDLE OF THE
WORST SOUTH SEA
TROPICAL STORM IN
THIRTY YEARS.

NEXT TIME IT'S
STRAIGHT TO
DISNEYLAND FOR ME.

WAS
DR--?

AN ISLAND!

NO
CHANCE TO
REACH IT
IN THIS
FLYING
COFFIN--

SPOOSH

--BUT WHAT GOOD IS THE MUTANT
ABILITY TO TELEPORT IF I DON'T
INDULGE MYSELF? ESPECIALLY
NOW THAT I'M WORKING MY WAY
PAST MY ONE-A-DAY LIMIT.

THE PROBLEM BEINGS, I CAN
ONLY 'PORT- IN AT THE SAME
SPEED I WAS TRAVELLING
WHEN I 'PORTED OUT!

WHICH WAS
VERY FAST.

I'VE...

SPLISH

...HAD...

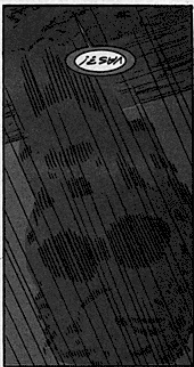
SPLISH

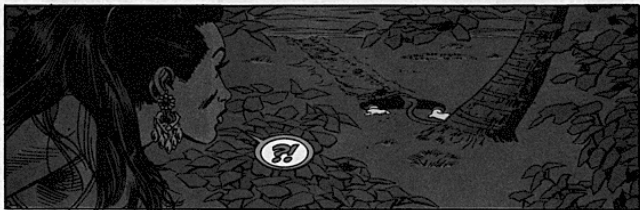
...BETTER...

...IDEAS.

SPLORRRSHH

SHOULD HAVE
STAYED WITH
THE PLANE.





MEANWHILE, AT
THE BRITAIN-
BASED LIGHT-
HOUSE THAT
EXCALIBUR
CALLS HOME...

"I CAN'T
BELIEVE I
CAME SO
CLOSE TO
EATING THAT
POOR LITTLE
DOGGIE!"

TO SAY NOTHING
OF THE CHUNK I
TOOK OUT OF
KURT'S SHOULDER.

* LAST ISSUE, --T.K.

THE DAY IS
GOING TO COME
WHEN I HAVE
TO ADMIT I'M
NOT CUT OUT
FOR SUPER
HEROING.

LOOK AT ME-- I LET MY
MIND WANDER EVEN A
LITTLE AND MY SHAPE-
CHANGING ABILITY LOCKS
ONTO THE NEAREST
LIVING THING.

MAYBE
EVERYONE
WOULD BE
BETTER OFF
IF I SIMPLY
FLEW AWAY?

SO THERE
YOU ARE,
DIDN'T YOU
HEAR ME
CALLING
YOU,
MEGGAN?

BLAMING
YOURSELF
FOR WHAT
HAPPENED TO
KURT?

I WAS
THE ONE WHO BIT
HIM.

BUT YOU'RE
NOT RE-
SPONSIBLE--
YOU WERE
A WIM-
PIRE AT
THE TIME.

IT
SOUNDS
SILLY
WHEN WE
SAY IT
ALoud,
DOESN'T
IT?

SGGGLLE!
OH, BRIAN.

SORRY, BRIAN,
I GUESS I
WASN'T PAYING
ATTENTION.

THE BRIGHT SIDE IS, KURT TOOK DR. STRANGE'S
ADVICE TO TAKE TIME TO RECOVER. IF I KNOW
NIGHTCRAWLER AS WELL AS I THINK I DO--

--HE'S PROBABLY
HAVING THE TIME
OF HIS LIFE.

YOU
THINK
SO?

I KNOW! SO, BEING A
MEMBER OF EXCALIBUR
DOESN'T AUTOMATICALLY
MEAN EVERYTHING HAS
TO GO WRONG.

EEEEEEEEEE

I'VE BEEN A HERO LONG ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE THE SOUND OF A DAMSEL IN DISTRESS.

YES, THAT'S CERTAINLY DISTRESS. UNFORTUNATELY, I'M TOO WEAK FROM THE LAST FIGHT TO BE MUCH HELP.

ACTUALLY, FOR ALL I KNOW, SHE MIGHT HAVE COMMITTED SOME CRIME.

BESIDES, I'LL PROBABLY NEED ALL MY STRENGTH JUST TO REACH THE TOP OF THAT VOLCANO.

WHEN'E GOOD THING I SHED MOST OF MY COSTUME OR I'D HAVE EVAPORATED BY NOW.

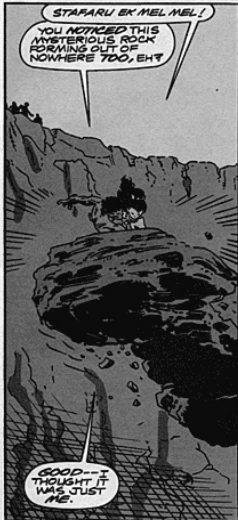
LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF PAGAN RELIGIOUS CEREMONY.

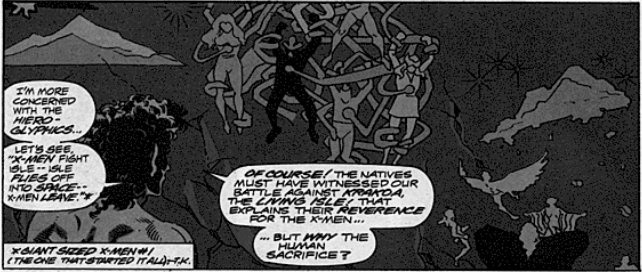
THE ONLY THING MISSING IS THE... HUMAN SACRIFICE.

KRO OCHS EYN NAVA KYI KRO OCHS EYN NAVA KYI / A

X GORRY, I DON'T SPEAK THE LANGUAGE.:EDITOR







I'M MORE
CONCERNED
WITH THE
MERO-
GLYPHICS...

LET'S SEE
"X-MEN FIGHT
ISLE" -- ISLE
FLIES OFF
INTO SPACE --
X-MEN LEAVE."

OF COURSE! THE NATIVES
MUST HAVE WITNESSED OUR
BATTLE AGAINST KRAKOA,
THE LIVING ISLE! THAT
EXPLAINS THEIR REVERENCE
FOR THE X-MEN...

... BUT WHY THE
HUMAN
SACRIFICE?

X-GIANT SIZED X-MEN #1!
(THE ONE THAT STARTED IT ALL) - F.K.



MAYBE IT IS BECAUSE THEY KNOW
THAT SPORES FROM THE DEPARTING
KRAKOA FELL BACK TO EARTH!

MAYBE... BECAUSE I NEED THE
OCCASIONAL ESSENCE OF A
HUMAN SOUL TO BUILD MY
STRENGTH IN ORDER TO AVENGE
MY SIRE!

MAYBE STILL, IT IS BECAUSE THEY
KNOW THAT NOT EVEN THEIR PITIFUL
X-SCORP CAN SAVE THEM FROM...
THE **SON OF KRAKOA!**

THOSE
ARE ALL
VERY GOOD
REASONS.

DO I HAVE TO
CHOOSE FROM THEM
OR DO I GET TO
MAKE UP ONE OF
MY OWN?

NEZARA FENT LACHNA!

LOOK, I APPRECIATE THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE BUT NOW ISN'T THE TIME TO MAKE HIM ANGRY.

BA COVA NOK!

SHE DIDN'T MEAN THAT.

YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT SHE IS SAYING?

I HAVEN'T A CLUE.

OH, THIS IS RICH! ALLOW ME TO TRANSLATE

DANKE, TELL HER TO MAKE HER WAY TO THE SURFACE AND BRING BACK REINFORCEMENTS.

CERTAINLY. "EIT KRI ARU SRI KRO!"

SEIRNT!

WAST! WHAT DID SHE SAY?!

SHE SAID "MEN," APPARENTLY SHE EXPECTED MORE FROM HER GOD.

I HO HA HOF WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT RECREATING THE WORLD IN MY IMAGE WOULD BE THIS MUCH FUN?

RECREATING THE WHOLE WORLD? PRETTY AMBITIOUS, DON'T YOU THINK?

NOT AT ALL. YOU SEE, AS MY FATHER WAS BEFORE ME, I AM OF THIS EARTH.

AS THE ONLY SPORE THAT DID NOT DROWN, I AM THE FOREBEARER OF A NEW RACE.

I AM... VEGA-SUPERIOR!

"VEGA-SUPERIOR?" PLEASE, BE SERIOUS.

SOON YOU WILL BE WRITHING IN AGONY AS I SUCK THE ESSENCE OF YOUR MUTANT ABILITIES INTO MYSELF. THEN YOU SHALL SEE HOW SERIOUS I AM!



APPROX! THERE'S
SUCH A THING AS
BEING TOO SERIOUS.



SNRAK

MAYBE...



...BUT PROBABLY NOT.
I'VE FACED WORSE
THREATS THAN THIS IN
THE DANGER ROOM--
WHEN IT WAS TURNED
OFF!

SLISH



THAT EVER-PRESENT SENSE OF HUMOR! THIS IS SOMETHING I SHOULD DEVELOP BEFORE I BRING ABOUT THE GENOCIDE OF THE HUMAN RACE.

I'M FREE ON THURSDAY IF YOU'D LIKE A LESSON.

I AM AFRAID YOU WILL BE DEAD LONG BEFORE TUESDAY.



CLIMB AS FAR AS YOU LIKE! YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ESCAPE US!



"US." US, WHO?

"US", AS IN THE NEW LIFE FORM THAT WILL SOON WALK THIS EARTH!



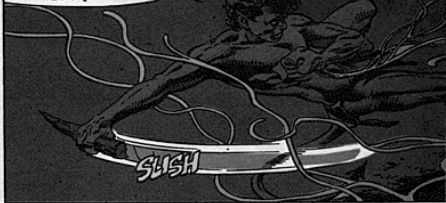
APPROXIMATELY THERE'S
SUCH A THING AS
BEING TOO SERIOUS.



SNRAK

MAYBE...

...BUT PROBABLY NOT.
I'VE FACED WORSE
THREATS THAN THIS IN
THE DANGER ROOM--
WHEN IT WAS TURNED
OFF!



SLUSH



THAT EVER-PRESENT SENSE OF HUMOR! THIS IS SOMETHING I SHOULD DEVELOP BEFORE I BRING ABOUT THE GENOCIDE OF THE HUMAN RACE.

I'M FREE ON TUESDAY!
YOU'D LIKE A LESSON.

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CLIMB AS FAR AS YOU LIKE! YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ESCAPE US!



"US." US WHO?

"US", AS IN THE NEW LIFE FORM THAT WILL SOON WALK THIS EARTH!



DURING THE X-MEN'S BRIEF VISIT TO MY FATHER'S 'ISLE', HE MEMORIZED THEIR GENETIC CODES.

SKRAK

OH... THAT "U.S."



AS HIS DIRECT DESCENDANT, I SHARE ALL HIS MEMORIES. I HAVE USED THAT INFORMATION TO BREED A NEW RACE OF MAN.

I CALL THEM--

PLEASE DON'T SAY IT.



THE VEGA-MEN!

I'LL SAY THIS FOR YOU--WHAT YOU LACK IN AUTHENTICITY, YOU MAKE UP FOR WITH REALLY STUPID NAMES.

THIS FROM A MAN WHO CALLS
HIMSELF "NIGHTCRAWLER"?

TOUGHIE,
BUT YOU
CAN'T
DENY--

SPRAUSH

--A COLOSSUS MADE OF STONE,
A LAMB-SPOUTING CYCLOPS, AND
A WOLVERINE MADE OF ICE... IT'S
NOT THE SAME.

NOT THAT I DON'T
PLAN ON DEFEATING
THEM--

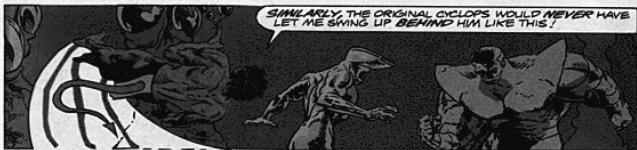


--IT WOULD JUST LOOK BETTER ON MY
RESUME IF I WASN'T BATTLING THE
RESULTS OF YOUR SECOND GENERATION
MEMORIES OF THE ORIGINALS.

FOR EXAMPLE,
EVEN YOUR
FATHER
WOULD HAVE
KNOWN--

--IT WOULD
TAKE MORE
THAN ONE
PUNCH TO
KNOCK OUT
WOLVERINE!

INDEED, IF LOGAN
WERE ALIVE TODAY
HE'D BE SPINNING
IN HIS GRAVE.



SIMILARLY, THE ORIGINAL CYCLOPS WOULD NEVER HAVE LET ME SWING UP BEHIND HIM LIKE THIS!



WELL, *MAYBE*. BUT WE'D HAVE TO HAVE BEEN HAVING A *REALLY* BAD DAY.

ON THE *BRIGHT* SIDE, IF ALL YOUR VEGA-MEN ARE GOING TO BE *THIS* EASILY DEFEATED, I'LL PROBABLY HAVE TIME TO GET IN A *TAN* BEFORE I GO.



IT SEEMS THAT AS SOON AS THEY'RE *BEATEN* THEY'RE *ABSORBED* BACK INTO THE EARTH.

KEK MALU
FRANT! FRANT!
FRANT!



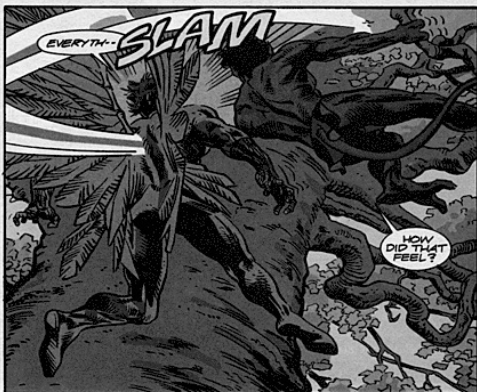
WHAT'D SHE SAY?

SHE SAID, "DIE,
FALSE GOD!
DIE! DIE!
DIE!"

I THINK
YOU AD-
LIBBED THE
LAST "DIE--"

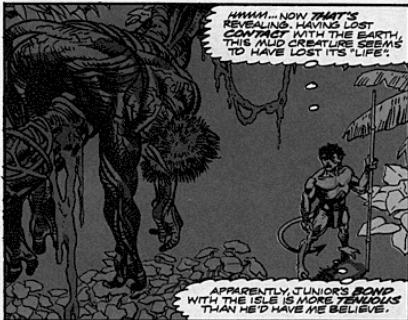


--BUT I
GET THE
BASIC
IDEA!









HYMM... NOW *THAT'S* REVEALING. HAVING LOST CONTACT WITH THE EARTH, THIS MUD CREATURE SEEMS TO HAVE LOST ITS "LIFE".

APPARENTLY, JUNIOR'S BOND WITH THE ISLE IS MORE TENUOUS THAN HE'D HAVE ME BELIEVE.



PRARU KI STRO BULARI!

YEAH, RIGHT. AND *THAT'S* FOR THE BACK-UP, GUYS.



NOW LET'S EXAMINE MY *OPTIONS*. TELEPORTING TO ORLANDO IS OUT OF THE QUESTION.

SCREAMING FOR HELP PROBABLY WOULDN'T DO *MUCH* GOOD.

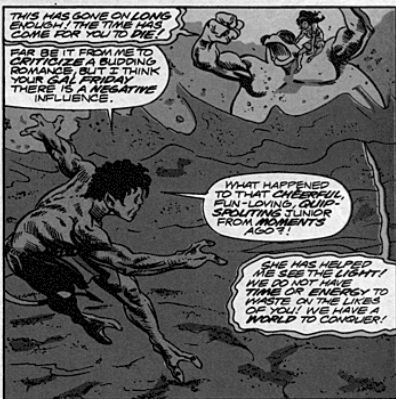
I'D BETTER DECIDE SOON, JUNIOR IS BOUND TO BE HERE ANY *NO*--



STOP! THERE IS NO ESCAPE!

SPLASH

ESCAPE?! HOW AM I GOING TO ESCAPE FROM THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN?!



THIS HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH! THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOU TO DIE!

FAR BE IT FROM ME TO CRITICIZE A BUDDING ROMANCE, BUT I THINK YOUR GAL FRIDAY THERE IS A *NEGATIVE* INFLUENCE.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT *CHEERFUL*, FUN-LOVING, *QUIP*-SPOUTING JUNIOR FROM MOMENTS AGO?!

SHE HAS HELPED ME SEE THE LIGHT! WE DO NOT HAVE TIME OR ENERGY TO WASTE ON THE LIKES OF YOU! WE HAVE A WORLD TO CONQUER!



YOU! YOU TRICKED ME!
YOU REALIZED THAT
AWAY FROM THE ISLE I
WOULD NOT HAVE MY
STRENGTH, MY
ABILITIES, MY--

--CHARMING
PERSONALITY? IT
WAS A KIDNEY. I
FIGURED WHY
WOULD AN ISLE
LEARN TO SWIM?

YOU SEE, JUNIOR, THE DAY MAY
COME WHEN HOMO-SAPIEN AND
HOMO-SUPERIOR MAY BE
REPLACED AS THE UNINTELLIGENT
LIFE FORM "ON THIS PLANET."

BUT UNTIL
THEN...

...WE'LL GET
ALONG FINE
WITHOUT
YOU.

THIS CANNOT
HAPPEN TO
ME!

SA PRANT
TOYONT?

OH, SHUT
UP!

I AM THE SON
OF KRANKA!

I AM VEGA-
SUPERIOR!

I AM...
SUNK...



STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes! Wow! I never expected the tremendous outpouring of mail that flooded our Bulpen after the recent announcement about the new mag which John Byrne and I are about to lay on you. It seems that everyone and his keeper wants to know more about this super-secret new project which we're so excitedly prepping for Marvelcom Assembled. (Well, it was super-secret, anyway, until I incontinentally spilled the beans. But, hey, it's too hot a development to keep bottled up much longer.) So here are a couple more hints to whet your appetite till we can take the lid off and make the official announcement...

As you've probably heard, our long-

awaited epic will involve the Marvel world of the near future, presenting an entire array of bigger-than-life heroes and badder-than-life villains... characters you've never seen before, characters you've barely ever imagined before! But, in addition to all the startling new concepts awaiting you, you'll also find astonishing traces of the Marvel world of today! For example, you'll see remnants of SHIELD, different than what you ever suspected it could — NO! Hold everything! I'm telling you much! I'm killing all the surprises to be! Why, oh, why, can't I ever keep a secret?!

Look, let's just settle for these few tidbits — the tentative title of all this new magnificence is "THE MARVEL WORLD OF TOMORROW!" Our first, 64-page deluxe issue will introduce many of the

main characters who will later spin off into their own comics. So the premiere issue is a must if you're to fully understand all the wonderment that soon will follow!

From what I've seen so far, Jolinn Johnny Byrne is doing his greatest artwork ever in TOMORROW! As for me, I'll try my hardest not to ruin it too much when I add all the squiggly little word balloons I'll be on sale before the end of the year, and if you wanna know how I really feel about THE MARVEL WORLD OF TOMORROW, even though I'm sure to get one free, I've still put in my order for extra copies!

Excelsior!

Stan

THE ULTRA NARROW CHECKLIST

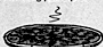
If you can only buy 10 Marvel books this year, here are the ones!

- ☐ AVENGERS #228 — Monthly
- ☐ AVENGERS WEST COAST #10
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #1
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #70
- ☐ — Monthly
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #206
- ☐ NARROW THE SPIDER-MAN #1
- ☐ THE PUNISHER #40 — Monthly
- ☐ VICE OF SPIDER-MAN #10
- ☐ — Monthly
- ☐ X-MEN #208 — Monthly
- ☐ MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
- ☐ The Original Sinners #1
- ☐ WHAT IF...? #1 — 3rd quarterly
- ☐ SHE-HULK #20 — Daily
- ☐ — Late Wednesday
- ☐ DARKMAN Limited Series #1
- ☐ STALLIONS #1
- ☐ EXCALIBUR #28 — Weekly
- ☐ POOLCUBES Limited Series #1
- ☐ ELSHERN PRINCE LMS Series #1
- ☐ — The final chapter
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA Book Special #1 — Low-priced, plan old comic book version
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA Movie Special #1 — Very expensive 16-page illustrated comic version (but well worth it)
- ☐ THUNDER QUEST LMS Series #1
- ☐ ESPERS Trade Paperback
- ☐ ALL IN #1
- ☐ AVENGERS SPOILER-MAN #10
- ☐ AVENGERS SPOILER #22
- ☐ BRUTE FORCE LMS Series #1
- ☐ GARGOYLE THE WANDERER #70
- ☐ HEADCLIFF #10
- ☐ NIGHT HOUSE #1
- ☐ THE NEW INSTANTS #10
- ☐ QUASAR #1
- ☐ THOR #24
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #10
- ☐ CHOCOLATE ROVER #1
- ☐ POWER RACK #10
- ☐ INTERFAX #1
- ☐ WOLFEYNE #10
- ☐ THE PUNISHER MAGAZINE
- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #178

AUGUST always puts us in the mind of July, what with them both being summer months and all. But it's not as insufferably hot in July, so why don't we use that as our starting point instead? July, as every flag-waving, apple pie-eating American knows, is the month we Americans celebrate our Independence Day. It's sort of America's way of saying, "We're better than all the other countries." No, just kidding. We can kid the other countries because we know what a good sense of humor they have. (Wait till Jerry Lewis finds out the French don't really like him. The whole thing was just an elaborate practical joke!) But since we're in an ultra-diplomatic mood, let's touch base with all our farflung friends in foreign lands to find out how Marvel has influenced the world.

The first stop on our little transcontinental journey is Scotland, where we see Marvel's answer to Ozzie and Harriet, Walt and Louise Simonson. The Simonsons are here on vacation, and perhaps gathering story material for upcoming issues of X-FACTOR and FANTASTIC FOUR. Another frequent visitor to Scotland is the mega-talented Charles Vess, researching his Spider-Man Graphic Novel, SPIRITS OF THE EARTH. Charles has made so many trips to Scotland lately, he's started drawing with his bagpipes. All of his tax-deductible research has paid off though, and SPIRITS OF THE EARTH will finally be released later soon.

Another Marvel world traveler is Marvel's answer to Wally Cox, Mark Gruenwald, who recently took a trip to Italy; the land of opera and gondolas, to spread the good word of Marvel at the Fiera per Regazzi del Libro in Bologna. Mark claims to have gotten a wealth of story ideas while abroad, but there's absolutely no truth to the rumor that Mark's doing a new CAPTAIN ITALY book. Chris Claremont, the hyper-prolific scripter of X-MEN, also took a recent jaunt to Italy. Chris reports he was nearly struck blind when the moon literally hit his eye like a big pizza pie.



As our whirlwind world tour continues, we are reminded of the recent tour taken by Marvel's answer to Elvis, Dan Cuddy,

assistant editor on the SPIDER-MAN titles. Dan and his band, Hypnoloveheel, hit the road for a series of gigs which made them the hottest thing since Ois Bait and the Chain. Hypnoloveheel now has two CDs out in stores, so there's no excuse for not knowing the lyrics to all of their songs.

Our own ace proofreader, Jack Abel (Marvel's answer to Don Knotts), recently returned from a jolly jaunt to merry of England. Jack said that other than the constant rain and catching a cold, he had a great time. He did have one complaint, though — as Jack put it, "They spell everything wrong over there!" Jack had to extend his vacation to give him more time to correct all the misspelled street signs.

You know, traveling around the world is a lot like running around the bases in a baseball game — you have to stop in all the right places, and your trip ends when you reach home. On our own hometown, the Marvel softball team is really kicking into high gear. Turbo-charged team captain Evan Skolnick is driving the Marveloids hard, and with Evan cracking the whip, he will surely lead the Marvel team to victory. The team's record so far is 1-1. We clobbered DC, but were beaten by those powerhouse over at ABC Sports. (Yeah, but let's see those ABC sports guys try and write a comic book!)



As we conclude our world tour, we recall the path taken by Marvel's answer to Buddy Hackett, Tom DeFalco, who just completed a one-week vacation of his own. Instead of venturing to some far-off corner of the world (did you ever wonder how a round world can have corners?), Tom decided to do something a little different this year. Where did Tom choose to go for his vacation? Why, no farther than his own front yard, where he could at last take down those Christmas decorations that have been hanging there since last December. Perhaps there's some kind of lesson to be learned here. Perhaps in our continuing quest to find new and better realms to explore, we're forgetting that the greatest adventure of all lies in our own back (or front) yard.

Truly this Tom DeFalco is a wise man.

- ☐ STUP #1
- ☐ BLACK PANTHER LMS Series #1
- ☐ SEVEN BLOCK #1
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA Trade
- ☐ FRED NERDICK SELLS THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #1
- ☐ AVENGERS #225
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #227
- ☐ COKE #100
- ☐ GUARDIAN OF THE GALAXY #5
- ☐ THE INCREDIBLE HULK #170
- ☐ MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #10
- ☐ THE PUNISHER #102
- ☐ SILVER SURFER #1
- ☐ MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
- ☐ #101
- ☐ WOLF #10
- ☐ DARKMAN Limited Series #2
- ☐ NERD Limited Series #1
- ☐ ROBOCOP #1
- ☐ SHIELD #10
- ☐ EXCALIBUR #28
- ☐ SPOILER-MAN #1
- ☐ HOLLYWOOD SUPERSTARS #2
- ☐ STREET POETRY #1
- ☐ DEADPOOL LMS Series #1
- ☐ DOCTOR DOG #10
- ☐ MARVEL MASTERWORKS #102
- ☐ #208
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #101
- ☐ IRON MAN #201
- ☐ THE NEW MARVELS #1
- ☐ SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #100
- ☐ THOR #102
- ☐ TRANSFORMERS #71
- ☐ X-MEN CLASSIC #102
- ☐ CLOAK AND DAGGER #14
- ☐ DR. STRANGE #102
- ☐ MODOK FIGHT #10
- ☐ THE PUNISHER MAGAZINE #102
- ☐ PUNISHER MAGAZINE #102
- ☐ MARVEL FANTASY #101
- ☐ CONAN SAGA #10
- ☐ DOCTOR DOG #10
- ☐ STUP #1
- ☐ #101
- ☐ WILD CARDS LMS Series #1
- ☐ PUNISHER FORDING COKE — Hardcover Graphic Novel

* Available only if selected outfits.



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KELLY CORVESE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Sword Strokes,

The plot of EXCALIBUR #19 was—awesome! Out of all of "The Cross-Time Caper" issues, it was the best. The thought of the Uncanny X-Men in it was cool.

Meggan's use of the X-Men's powers against Jamie made an awesome battle. I have been trying to understand Jamie's powers for some time now. I'm pretty much of an expert on superhuman powers in the Marvel Universe. I've got a small idea about it. He has the ability to project himself across extra-dimensional planes, and manipulate the environment on probably molecular scales. The counterpart of him can't be hurt, but it is possible to injure him, an example of this is when Kitty found him scorched from Meggan's plasma blast. Am I a little close to right?

"Mojo Mayhem" was also really neat. I loved the X-Babies. But, I was a little disappointed that the rest of Excalibur was not featured in the X-Babies' adventure. Overall it was great.

I'd like to see more of Captain Britain. If he's a mutant and his suit increases his strength, would his strength be greater than two tons? Hopefully, Nightcrawler will gain full control of his teleportation powers soon and Amanda Sefton will visit Excalibur.

Until Captain Britain finds out that Wolverine is his long lost cousin, Make Mine Marvel!

Jeff Meggan

(Address withheld by request)

We're glad you approved of our doings in issue #19, Jeff. And you came pretty close with your explanation of Jamie's abilities, pretty close.

As for your query about Captain Britain's strength level, THE MARVEL UNIVERSE UPDATE '89 has it listed at 95 tons, so you could truthfully say it is over two tons—way over!

Dear Sword Strokes,

I resent the way Captain Britain was portrayed as an arrogant, self-centered brute!

In previous issues he was nice and caring towards Meggan. But your guest writer, Michael Higgins, destroyed that image. I realize the Captain has treated Meggan a little rudely before, but never like this for no reason at all!

Start portraying Captain Britain as a hero not a villain!

Gregory McMahan
Trinity, NC

Dear EXCALIBUR,

EXCALIBUR #20 was pretty good, even though it was a fill-in. The story was good and the art fantastic, but it being out of continuity lessened the enjoyment for me.

Michael Higgins seems to have a pretty good grip on the members of Excalibur, both in this issue's "Eye of the Beholder" and the "Having A Wild Weekend" mini-series in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #31-#38, except for Captain Britain. He was too much in the overbearing jerk mode this issue. His insensitivity toward Meggan and the team was really unlike him. Sure, he can be a jerk,

and is a lot of the time, but he was one to excess in this issue. Also, the tension shown in this issue hasn't been seen in any of the Cross-Time Caper issues. They seem to be getting along and clicking as a team. So I don't see any of this issue's events being elaborated on but it was a good issue anyway.

I recently re-read all of the Cross-Time Caper issues #12-#19, and I will say it has been a lot of fun. Thing is, it's gotten a little repetitive toward the end and this fill-in just makes it drag even longer. I think it's about time that the team returned to the mainstream Marvel-Earth and got on with their lives. Lord knows there's a lot waiting for them, what with Set-yr⁹, Jamie Braddock, and Galactus in the wings. I do think the break this issue should give Chris Claremont a chance to catch his breath and regain the book's focus, which has wandered somewhat. Also, the debut of Chris Wozniak as penciler next issue should help. With the departure of Alan Davis and Paul Neary after #17 the art also wandered. A regular penciler like Mr. Wozniak will help get EXCALIBUR back on track. I'm looking forward to the upcoming months.

As far as future plots go, I'd like the team to meet more established villains and heroes, hopefully from European countries. I'd also like to see the ranks expanded with Blitzkrieg from Germany—who hasn't been seen since THE CONTEST OF THE CHAMPIONS Limited Series in 1982—even if for a guest shot. Also, I'd like to see Amanda Sefton, which would cause even more problems between Kurt, Meggan, and Brian. Also an explanation of Widget's powers. I'd like to see the conclusion of the hanging plotlines, like Set-yr⁹ and others.

Until #21...

Patrick Hamilton
9825 S.W. Rodeo Place
Beaverton, OR 97005

By now you should know, Patrick, that Excalibur is back where they started from, and are about to take care of those dangling plotlines you mentioned. They just had to get Galactus out of the way first.

We don't know about Blitzkrieg, but, Amanda can be found currently residing in the pages of the X-MEN where there is something really big brewing.

As for Widget, more will be revealed about him and his powers in the very near future.

The team will also be encountering more established villains in the upcoming months. Be on the lookout for all of these!

Dear Sword Strokes,

Re: EXCALIBUR #20—

Okay, I'm glad guest writer Mike Higgins had fun with the latest issue. Thank you. Now if you could do us one small inconsequential favor: don't ever let Mike Higgins write for EXCALIBUR again.

What does he think it is after all—a comic book?

Derek Janssen
173 Lincoln St.
Worcester, MA 01605

Well, uh, Derek, we don't know how to break this news to you, but, last time we checked—it was!

People,

When I first opened up EXCALIBUR #20 and realized it was an infamous "fill-in" issue I was pretty peeved. Then, I read the entire issue, and boy did my shorts bubble!

This was an excellent issue bar none! It stood on its own as a one-shot and really dealt with the team members of Excalibur. Don't get me wrong, I love Chris Claremont's writing more than cheese fries, but sometimes he gets ahead of himself—and his audience! In issue twenty we got to see a lot of dangling plot-lines finally dealt with—and I called this issue a "fill-in"!

In numerical order we found: 1) Meggan's self-doubt, 2) Kurt's semi-unrequited love for Meggan, 3) The aftermath of a date between Brian and Courtney, 4) Rachel's psychic connection with Kitty and her subsequent fear of invading Shadowcat's privacy, 5) Brian's arrogant and stubborn treatment of the team, 6) Nightcrawler's increasing powers, and 7) Widget's function and recognition in the group. That sure is a lot of material for a measly "fill-in" issue!

Okay, so next month it's back to "The Cross-Time Caper." That'll be fine—but, come on, Chris, let's get some details... "Just the facts ma'am..."

Lon Wolf
2118 Ryan's Run East
Maple Shade, NJ 08052

Glad we were able to "fill" you up with our fill-in, Lon.

Hey Gang,

Re: EXCALIBUR #20—

Seeing as how Alan Davis has taken his artistic leave of this title, why don't you offer the vacant position to Ron Lim?

Ron's one of the best artists currently employed by Marvel and he's already familiar with the characters thanks to his two fill-in efforts. Give him a shot!

Elvis Orten
17650 Dawson Rd.
Dawson Springs, KY 42408

Not only is Ron one of the best artists we employ at the moment, he's also one of the busiest. And if you don't believe us, check out his work on his regular books, SILVER SURFER and CAPTAIN AMERICA, and the THANOS QUEST two issue Bookshelf Format Limited Series. But don't worry, he'll still be doing an occasional issue for us when he's needed. In the meantime we hope you enjoy new artist and superstar-to-be Chris Wozniak's artwork on current issues of EXCALIBUR. We think he makes a fine replacement for Alan, who hasn't strayed too far away from the EXCALIBUR fold, as issue twenty-three and twenty-four should attest to.

NEXT ISSUE: Chris Claremont returns with guest penciler, Ron Wagner.